(c) whether NHAI would consider this project for construction; and

(d) whether it is a fact that portion of the said road has been taken up under North East State Road investment programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) The Ministry is primarily responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways. However, the Ministry also provides funds for identified/selected State roads under Central Road Funds (CRF). For North Salmara, Lengtisinga Jania to Amingaon Guwahati Road which is a State road, no proposal has been received even under CRF also.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Emission and fuel economy of vehicles

523. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the Centre for Science and Environment the diesel car models with engine size less than 1,600 cc and produced after 2005 emit more Carbon-di-Oxide than the vehicles produced before 2005;

(b) whether it is also a fact that fuel economy in the above vehicles has dropped drastically;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action his Ministry is taking on the auto manufacturers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) No, performance of a vehicle largely depends on the inspection and maintenance carried out and the accumulative mileage covered.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) This Department is entrusted with the responsibility of laying down emission norms for various categories of motor vehicles plying on different fuels such as Gasoline, Diesel, CNG, LPG etc.. Moreover, the emission norms are laid down as per road map recommended by Mashelkar Committee on Auto Fuel Policy and approved by the Government. As per this Road Map, National Capital Region and 10 other mega cities in the country would switch over to BS-IV norms (four wheeled vehicles) and rest of the country to BS-III norms with effect from 1-4-2010.

Four-laning of NHs in Rajasthan

†524. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 504 given in the Rajya Sabha on 10th May, 2007 and state:

(a) whether comprehensive project report for Development Project Phase-III A and IV B of National Highways No. 11, 12 and 14 has been received and sanctioned;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether the consultant has been selected for the feasibility study of remaining parts of National Highways No. 11, 12 and 14; and

(c) if so, the progress made in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) Detailed Project report of Jaipur-Reengus section on NH-11 and Jaipur-Tonk-Deoli section on NH-12 under National Highway Development Project (NHDP) Phase-III have been received. However, there is no Development Project called as Phase-IVB.

(b) Yes, Sir. Consultant has been selected for the feasibility study for the remaining part of National Highway no. 11,12 and 14 in Rajasthan.

(c) Feasibility reports of Reengus-Sikar section on NH-11, Deoli-Jhalawar section of NH-12 and Beawar-Pali-Pindwara section of NH-14 have been received.

Bridge over River Tista on NH-31

†525. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to construct a new bridge over the river Tista on National Highway-31, passing *via* Darjeeling to Jalpaiguri, Dooars Coochbihar towards North East;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the construction work is expected to commence; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) No Sir, there is no plan to construct a new bridge over the river Tista on National Highway-31.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The State Government has not proposed for construction of new bridge over river Tista.

National Highway 5

526. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of completion of NH-5 Balasore-Bhadrak stretch in Orissa, as inordinate delay in its completion has become a serious cause of inconvenience to the travellers;

(b) whether there have been repeated complaints/agitations by the locals for early completion of this stretch; and

(c) if so, what is holding up this project and the action plan of the concerned authorities to address this concern?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.